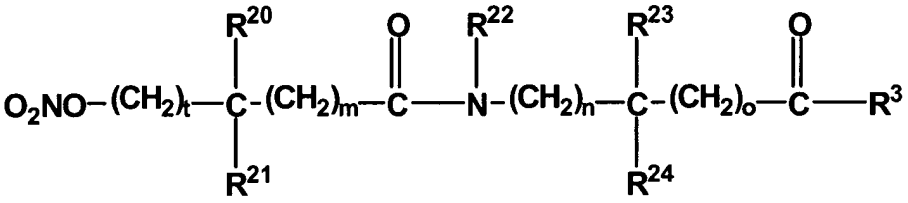
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~and/or preventing~~ a gastrointestinal disorder; for treating and/or improving a gastrointestinal property of a COX-2 selective inhibitor; for decreasing the recurrence of an ulcer; for improving a gastroprotective property, an anti-*Helicobacter pylori* property or an antacid property of a proton pump inhibitor; or for improving a gastroprotective property of an H_2 receptor antagonist; in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of ~~at least one compound of Formula II or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof: wherein the compound of Formula (II) is:~~



~~(II)~~

~~wherein:~~

~~R^3 is a hydroxyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkenoxy, di-lower alkylamino-lower alkoxy, acylamino-lower alkoxy, acyloxy-lower alkoxy, aryloxy, aryl-lower alkoxy, substituted aryloxy or substituted aryl-lower alkoxy, in which the substituent is methyl, halogen or methoxy; amino, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, aryl-lower alkylamino, hydroxy-lower alkyl-amino, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine, piperazine or amino-acid residues via peptide linkage;~~

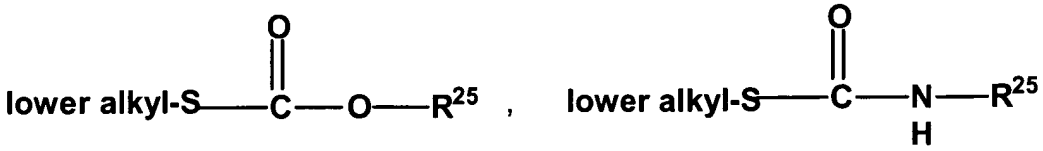
~~R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently a hydrogen, an alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted lower alkyl in which the substituent is a halogen, groups defined by R^3 containing hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, lower alkylamino, acylamino, acyloxy, arylamino, mercapto, lower alkylthio or arylthio;~~

~~R^{22} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;~~

~~R^{23} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, phenyl, methoxy phenyl, phenyl-lower alkyl,~~

~~methoxyphenyl-lower alkyl, hydroxyphenyl-lower alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, alkoxy-lower alkyl, amino-lower alkyl, acylamino-lower alkyl, mercapto-lower alkyl or lower alkylthio-lower alkyl;~~

~~R^{24} is lower alkyl thiol, -SH, S-acyl compound of lower alkylthiol, preferably -S-acetyl, -S-propionyl, -S-butyryl, -S-isobutyryl, -S-capryl, -S-pivaloyl , -S-benzoyl;~~



~~and lower alkylthio-lower alkanoic acid and esters and amides thereof, and lower alkylthio-lower alkyl;~~

~~R^{25} is hydrogen and lower alkyl groups in which R^3 and R^{24} are bonded together and form part of a thiolactone group, groups in which R^3 and R^{23} are bonded together in the form of an ester or amide, groups in which R^{22} and R^{23} are bonded together in the form of an alkylene bridge with 2 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkylene bridge with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and a sulfur atom, an alkylene bridge with 3 to 4 carbon atoms, which contains a double bond or an alkylene bridge as above, which can be substituted by one or more hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl or di-lower alkyl groups; and~~

~~m, n and o are each independently integers from 0 to 10.~~

N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-glycyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5186) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-alanyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5185) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-leucyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester; N-(2-nitratoacetyl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoacetyl)-S-acetyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoacetyl)-S-propionyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoacetyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoacetyl)-methionine methyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratopropionyl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratopropionyl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratopropionyl)-methionine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically

acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratobutyryl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratobutyryl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratobutyryl)-S-acetyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratobutyryl)-S-butyryl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratobutyryl)-methionine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-S-benzoyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-S-acetyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratoisobutyryl)-methionine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-S-acetyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-S-propionyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-methionine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratobutyryl)-homocysteine thiolactone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-cysteine ethyl ester-S-ethyl carbonate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-acetyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-propionyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-butyryl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-isobutyryl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-benzoyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-methionine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-methionine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-homocysteine thiolactone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratohexanoyl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(2-nitratohexanoyl)-S-propionyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt

thereof; N-(3-nitratohexanoyl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratohexanoyl)-methionine methyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(12-nitratolauroyl)-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(12-nitratolauroyl)-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(12-nitratolauroyl)-S-acetyl-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(12-nitratolauroyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or compound SPM 6373 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising administering a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising administering an NSAID, a COX-2 inhibitor, an H_2 receptor antagonist, a proton pump inhibitor, a vasoactive agent, a steroid, a ß-agonist, an anticholinergic, a mast cell stabilizer, a PDE inhibitor, taxane, rapamycin, tranilast, or a combination of two or more thereof.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein the compound of Formula (II) is~~ comprising administering to the patient N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-glycyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5186) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-alanyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5185) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; ~~compound SPM 3672 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~ or compound SPM 6373 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for treating ~~and/or preventing~~ a gastrointestinal disorder.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for treating and/or improving a gastrointestinal property of a COX-2 selective inhibitor.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for decreasing the recurrence of an ulcer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for improving a gastroprotective property of a proton pump inhibitor.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for improving an anti-*Helicobacter pylori* property of a proton pump inhibitor.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for improving an antacid property of a proton pump inhibitor.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method is the method for improving a gastroprotective property of an H_2 receptor antagonist.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~and/or preventing~~ a gastrointestinal disorder; for treating and/or improving a gastrointestinal property of a COX-2 selective inhibitor; for decreasing the recurrence of an ulcer; for improving a gastroprotective property, an anti-*Helicobacter pylori* property or an antacid property of a proton pump inhibitor; or for improving a gastroprotective property of an H_2 receptor antagonist in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-glycyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5186) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-alanyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5185) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; ~~compound SPM 3672 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~ and compound SPM 6373 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising administering a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising administering an NSAID, a COX-2 inhibitor, an H_2 receptor antagonist, a proton pump inhibitor, a vasoactive agent, a steroid, a ß-agonist, an anticholinergic, a mast cell stabilizer, a PDE inhibitor, taxane, rapamycin, tranilast, or a combination of two or more thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-glycyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5186) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of N-nitrato-pivaloyl-S-(N-acetyl-alanyl)-L-cysteine ethyl ester (compound SPM 5185) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of N-(3-nitratopivaloyl)-S-pivaloyl-cysteine ethyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 18,~~ A method for treating and/or improving a gastrointestinal property of a COX-2 selective inhibitor; for decreasing the recurrence of an ulcer; for improving a gastroprotective property, an anti-*Helicobacter pylori* property or an antacid property of a proton pump inhibitor; or for improving a gastroprotective property of an H_2 receptor antagonist in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of compound SPM 3672 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of compound SPM 6373 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.